CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN DRAPER & CARON

1846

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BETWEEN

THE HON. W. H. DRAPER & THE HON. R. E. CARON;

AND, BETWEEN

THE HON. R. E. CARON,

AND

THE HONBLES. L. H. LAFONTAINE & A. N. MORIN.

REFERRED TO IN A RECENT DEBATE IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

CONTAINING MANY SUPPRESSED LETTERS.

Montreal:
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1846.

The contents of the following pages (with the exception of some notes of a private nature, between Mr. Draper and Mr. Caron on the one part, and between the latter and Mr. Lafontaine on the other) embrace all the correspondence which has taken place relative to the possible approximation of parties, and of which as yet, a part only has been published. The suppression in question has had the effect of placing Mr. Caron in a position by no means agreeable to his feelings, a position which has brought upon him, from Mr. Draper and his friends, the reproach of having violated the confidence reposed in him, in communicating to Mr. Lafontaine Mr. Draper's letters, whilst he concealed the letters of Mr. Lafontaine from Mr. Draper.

As to this latter point, it may be observed that Mr. Caron, having to correspond with persons residing at a distance, adopted the most expeditious mode, and, as on the one hand he had to deal with Mr. Draper, who imparted his views to him, and as, on the other, he had to collect the views of the several parties consulted, both verbally and in writing, Mr. Caron acquitted himself of this task faithfully, in transmitting the result to Mr. Draper on his own responsibility; had he acted otherwise, Mr. Draper would have obtained the views of but one individual of the party.

Mr. Caron then, acted in the manner most suitable, or rather in the only manner that could attain the result desired by Mr. Draper. To be convinced of this, it is only necessary to take into consideration the nature of the information the latter desired to obtain from Mr. Caron. It was of that nature that he could only obtain it by putting himself in correspondence with the leaders of the party with which a reconciliation was desired; and it was only after the receipt of the first letter from Mr. Draper, that Mr. Caron deemed it right to mention to Mr. Lafontaine the preliminary conversation he had had at Quebec with Mr. Draper, (and which till then, he had considered confidential, as declared in his letter of the 8th September, 1845). And in what manner did he make it known to him? It was done so in telling him that the letter which he (Mr. Caron) had received was confidential, and could only be communicated to Mr. Morin, and such other of his friends as he could count upon, a condition that Mr. Lafontaine fully accepted, since, in his letter of the 20th of October following, he asks Mr. Caron for the copy of a particular letter *in order that he might avoid saying any thing in conversation that might disclose its contents.* This letter, therefore, of Mr. Caron, of the 8th September, was the basis and foundation of all that could be undertaken for the attainment of the end proposed, and moreover, this mode of proceeding was the only sensible course. Could it indeed be supposed (and it was upon this principle Mr. Caron acted) that the chiefs of the party in question would be willing to enter into negociation with Mr. Caron without knowing the authority he had for asking the communication of their views? It is not difficult to give an answer to this question, and to

view the matter otherwise would be to make of Mr. Caron, not a mediator, the character in which he was known to act, but a spy ; and the proceedings of Mr. Draper would not, in that case, have been much more honorable. But the character of both was so fully established that no one could take this view of the question. Mr. Caron, then, in so far as he had the power, did all that depended upon him to respond to the confidence of Mr. Draper, and if he did not succeed in obtaining the result that both had in view, it will be seen by what follows that this was not his fault, unless, indeed, it may be justly reproached against him that he reposed in Mr. Lafontaine, a confidence which he abused, when, for more than one reason, he ought to have acted in a manner very different from that which he has pursued, Mr. Caron having only undertaken the mission in question in the interest of the country and of that party to which Mr. Lafontaine belonged. It will be seen by the summary following the correspondence, whether Mr. Lafontaine was authorized, as he pretended he was, to adopt the course he took in laying before the Assembly a part only of this correspondence.

It is believed that when the impartial reader shall have read the correspondence which follows, and the remarks which accompany it, he will be convinced that Mr. Lafontaine had resolved from the commencement to make public all the communications which might be made to him ; and the event has also proved that he had determined to disregard all those considerations which Mr. Caron was entitled to suppose he would respect.

As to the authority Mr. Lafontaine pretends to have received from Mr. Caron, under certain contingencies, it must be remarked, that even supposing Mr. Lafontaine did find himself circumstanced as he has alleged, it can only have arisen from communications made by him to individuals, who certainly did not either by their number or their standing, fall within the conditions prescribed by Mr. Caron's letter of the 8th September.

No one will admit Mr. Lafontaine's right to make circumstances of his own creation the excuse for the course he has taken to accomplish ends best known to himself.

If the impression which has resulted from the debates in the Assembly, and from the publication of a part only of the correspondence, has been unfavorable to Mr. Caron, this ought to surprise no one who considers that that part only which was unfavorable to that gentleman, and favorable to those who wished to compromise him, was brought to light, and that not one voice in his favor was raised by his countrymen in the Assembly, to invoke what was due to his past character, or to solicit for him that measure of justice never refused even to the most guilty, namely, that he should not be condemned unheard—and this it is that has rendered necessary the present step in favor of an honorable man, whose only regret, under the circumstances, is,—the having placed unlimited confidence in one who was unworthy of it.

Montreal, 10th April, 1846.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Extract of a Letter from the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, Sept. 7, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I deem it my duty to give you in writing, the substance of a conversation I had some time since in Montreal with Mr. Draper, in which he intimated to me the desire he had that some of our friends should join the Administration. The following is the substance of it.

As early as last summer, Mr. Draper, without being as explicit as he was on this occasion, had given me to understand that he would be very glad to see some French Canadians form part of the Administration, other than those who already composed it. He had mentioned Morin as one of the former, and at the same time intimated that he considered as impossible your forming part of it, owing to the personal differences existing between yourself and the Governor; he gave me to understand that there would be some means devised of removing the obstacle, by providing for you otherwise. As to Mr. Baldwin, he seemed to be under the impression that he would be disposed to retire unsolicited, and appeared to be, indeed, possessed of some information on the subject. I considered all this at the time as merely confidential, and to be kept to myself, inasmuch as he had not authorized me to communicate. A few days before my departure for Montreal, I received from him a note, recalling to my recollection the conversation alluded to, and begging of me to inform him what were the difficulties that stood in the way of a reconciliation, in order to ascertain whether some plan could not be devised to remove them. I answered that as I was about going to Montreal, I should there see him and give him an answer. Having accordingly met with him, he strongly insisted upon the advantages that would result to the public in general, and particularly to the French part of the population, by having in the Council of the country, persons knowing the wants of all, and able to provide for them. After having represented to me the injury which our isolated position inflicted upon the whole of Lower Canada, but more particularly our portion of the population, he told me that there were difficulties in the way, but that we ought to consider whether there were no means to overcome them. The first difficulty was to find situations for those who were to be introduced. Thereupon he told me that Mr. Viger could be easily prevailed upon to retire, and that Mr. Papineau desired nothing better; that both these situations should be filled up by French Canadians; he seemed desirous that Morin should be President of the Council; but he wished at all events to see that place filled by a Canadian. He spoke of the office of Solicitor General, which, he said, ought to be filled by one of our origin, and who, although not forming nominally part of the ministry, would, nevertheless, exercise great influence in the conduct of affairs.—He also spoke of the Assistant Secretaryship, the incumbent to which ought to receive handsome emoluments, and who should have, or be able to obtain a seat in Parliament. This was about all that he could for the

present offer to our friends, who, when in power, might themselves strive afterwards to made their share more considerable.

Another difficulty which he pointed out was in reference to yourself.—As regarded you, he said that nothing would afford him greater pleasure than to have you as a colleague, but that as the Governor and yourself could not meet, the idea of seeing you form part of the administration must be given up so long as Lord Metcalfe remained in power; but that it would be unjust to sacrifice a man of your influence and merit; that your friends would be highly censurable if they did so; but that this difficulty could easily be made to disappear, by giving you an appointment with which you would be satisfied. I understood, or rather he told me the intention was to place you on the Bench.

As to Mr. Baldwin, he said little about him; but I understood, as I did in my first conversation of which I have spoken, that he thought he would retire of himself. He said that there were other details, upon which he felt very sure that we could agree. All this was told me with full permission to communicate it, and indeed with an earnest request that I should do all in my power to bring about a junction of parties, and to induce some of our friends to accept of such seats in the Council as could, for the present, be vacated for them. I cannot forbear telling you that I am of opinion that the present state of things cannot last. What is offered is indeed little, but it might be a beginning of something better. It is very possible that I may not view the matter rightly; but it does seem to me that the overtures made are worthy of consideration. I communicate them to you, that you may consider of them, and you are at liberty to communicate on the subject with your friends, but this must be done with discretion.

I am, &c.

R. E. CARON.

(*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.*)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 8th Sept. 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—You will receive with this, the letter I wrote you yesterday, which, although written in great haste, contains, in substance at least, a correct account of what passed between Mr. Draper and myself, and also a succinct but sincere *exposé* of my general opinions on the important subject which gave rise to it.

Whatever may be your views of the subject, whether they agree with mine or not, I trust you will do me the justice to believe that the motives by which I am actuated are honest and disinterested.

All that I intended to do was to communicate to you and Morin the overtures that had been made to me, fully determined not to urge the thing

further; if you are of opinion that the proposed, or any other, arrangement which might place our friends in power, is, under the circumstances, impossible,—should such be the case, I should sincerely regret it, but I shall submit and await more favorable circumstances.

With regard to that part of the transaction which regards you, I do not even allude to it, being of opinion that in your position, you ought to look upon this matter as if it had reference to another, and not to yourself personally.

It is unnecessary for me to state that my letter of yesterday's date is of a confidential nature, and is to be communicated only to Morin, and such other friends as you can rely upon; for if the proposed arrangement should be without any result, it would be better for all parties that it should remain between us. Write me immediately, and say what you think is best to be done.

R. E. CARON.

[*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*]

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 8th September, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have always put off writing to you, because I did not wish to write without having something certain to tell you as to the result of the mission I took upon myself at your request. Although I am not very far advanced in the business, I must nevertheless write to you now, lest my very long silence should make you think that I have failed to attend to a matter, which is certainly far too important to be neglected. Since my return from Montreal, I have thought much of the conversation we had together; and I began by convincing myself that the difficulties in the way of an understanding though great were not insurmountable;—and desiring, as I do, to put an end to a state of things which cannot last without serious injury to the country generally, and to Lower Canada in particular, and more especially to that portion of the population to which I belong,—I immediately determined to place myself in communication with those persons whom I regarded as able and willing to assist me in promoting the object we had in view. But one of those persons, and the one on whom I most relied, has been absent since my return and came back only within the last few days; another to whom it was necessary that I should write answered me only yesterday, and from a third I have as yet had no reply. Notwithstanding this, I should probably be now able to give you a decisive answer, but that those on whom the success of our plan mainly depends reside in the District of Montreal,—it is necessary to communicate with them by letter, and you know how slow and disagreeable this method of treating any difficult and delicate business always is. I should certainly have gone to Montreal, had I not been so much occupied that the journey was almost impossible for me.

What I have written is intended to explain to you the reason why, even now, I have nothing decisive to inform you of, upon a business which has nevertheless much occupied me. Things are nevertheless in progress, and though I can hardly say what will be the final result of an undertaking in which I take deep interest,—I am happy to inform you, that the few persons with whom I have had any communication on the subject, see matters quite in the same point of view as I do, and are disposed to lend their aid in removing the difficulties in the way of an arrangement which they seem sincerely to desire. I have received promises of support and I have been written to, that it was right to assist me. Things are therefore in progress, and in a little while I hope to be able to tell you more. But whatever be the result, I promise you that I will be sincere, and that I will let you know the obstacles which may have prevented success.

Men's minds here, moreover, appear to be much better disposed, and there is no doubt that a change or re-action is gradually taking place, from which I hope much for the arrangement and realization of our plan. If, as I believe the new Solicitor-General succeeds in his election, this success will have a good effect and will be a proof of the re-action of which I have spoken.

I must close my communication for to-day,—and will write to you as soon as I have anything worth while to tell you.

In the meantime be assured that I will not lose sight of the matter—and that I am, with much esteem and the highest consideration,

Dear Sir,

Your very devoted servant,

ED. CARON.

(*From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

MONTREAL, 10th Sept. 1845.

TRANSLATION.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, as well as that which accompanied it. These letters only arrived late yesterday afternoon. According to your wish I have communicated them to our friend Morin. In replying to your communication, I answer only for myself, and I do so, as I should have done, had my name not been mixed up in your conversation with Mr. Draper. Although the nature and the object of the conversations, in so far as I am concerned, would justify me in abstaining from the expression of any opinion, yet, in accordance with your wish, I think it due to the friendship which I feel for you, to express my opinion frankly, but only on those points of your letter to which I think myself called on to answer. I should observe at first, that

I infer from the tenor of your letter, although not stated in express terms, that you are of opinion that in the circumstances of the country, the majority of each Province should govern respectively, in the sense that we attach to that idea—that is to say, that Upper Canada should be represented in the administration of the day, by men possessing the confidence of the political party in that section of the province which has the majority in the House of Assembly, and that it should be the same for Lower Canada. Now, if this is your opinion, it appears to me that it furnishes you with the means of offering to Mr. Draper, "strong and irresistible" reasons in support of any advice given in harmony with this opinion. These reasons naturally present themselves, without there being any occasion to offer them in detail.

The present administration so far as regards U. C., is formed on this principle, but as regards L. C., its formation rests on an opposite principle. Why this distinction between the two sections of the province? Is there not in this fact alone a manifestation of injustice, if not of oppression? The course taken by Mr. Draper, to obtain the results which he desires, appears to me to be unconstitutional. No one is responsible for the step owing to which you write me; you are not charged to recognize either in whole or even in part the administration of which he is a member; you assume no responsibility. It was this which at first made me hesitate to give you my opinion. Had it been otherwise you would have had a right to demand of a friend that he should give you his advice upon what you would have to do, and in such a case I would have deemed it my duty to reply to your appeal without omitting any part of your demands, and without fear of compromising any one. If then I answer you on some points, you must understand that it is not without some hesitation. What is proposed to you is a repudiation of the principle of responsibility in so far as applies to Lower Canada. Since Mr. Draper admits that the Lower Canadian section of the ministry does not represent Lower Canada, why maintain it? Why according to your principles not form a new administration for Lower Canada with the aid of some one constitutionally charged to do so? An administration thus formed would be strong with the influence that the support of the majority of our representatives would give it, and would make that influence legitimately prevail in the Council, and in return would give to the country all the guarantee which necessarily results from the controul which public opinion would exercise over it. It would be then and then only that you could flatter yourselves with having in an administration, to make use of your own terms, persons disposed to and capable of sustaining our interests.

But it is said to you—We only wish to *join to us* some Canadians as French Canadians. From that moment, those who enter the Ministry enter it not in consequence of a constitutional right, nor by the action of the opinion of their countrymen, but only by favour, by the good pleasure of a Governor. From that moment as we learn by experience, they are without influence—they are no longer free agents; they are only instruments in the hands of the Governor, to do evil as to do good. If they have any capacity or talent, they make them serve sooner or later, to throw

division among us. On the one hand, they soon cease to feel the salutary check of the opinion of their fellow citizens; on the other side they accustom themselves only to consult their personal interests, and often even their passions. They obey only the arbitrary will of a Governor. Do you wish that I should cite you examples? Here they are:—Mr. Dominique Mondelet thought without doubt to be useful to his countrymen, when under Lord Aylmer, he accepted a place in the Executive Council. We have seen him almost immediately denying his past life and afterwards voting for the suspension of Judges Panet and Bedard, and acting himself as Advocate before that illegal tribunal, the Court Martial? Yet he was called to the Council as a French Canadian. It was under this title that at a later and sufficiently memorable epoch, we have seen Messrs. Debartzch, Heney, Quesnel, Louis Panet, take their seats in the Executive Council. They doubtless thought they would be able to promote there the interests of their fellow countrymen. They ended by voting there for the suspension of our representative Constitution. In later times we have seen Messrs. Viger and Papineau enter the Council by the same door. They have said, like the others that they could be useful there to their fellow countrymen of French origin. Yet one of their first acts committed in broad day was to give us for Speaker a person that we may doubtless esteem, but who does not understand a single word of our language, and to oppose a French Canadian speaking both languages equally, although unanimously called by *their* grateful countrymen to that high office. We complain, and especially you of the District of Quebec, of the unjust division of the public monies during last session. To whom do we owe it? Under whose auspices has this division been made? Let Messrs. Viger and Papineau answer. And yet all these persons appealed to the fact of their being French Canadians as a reason for their accepting office. All of them had names better known than that of Mr. Tachereau, who, like them, only enters into the administration under the same title, and by the same door, with the best desire in the world, doubtless, to do good. The same fate awaits him. A little more division among the Canadians, with all its unfortunate effects; this is all we have to expect from a system which a Quebec journal has just sanctioned in broad day, and which I cannot describe otherwise than as a system of "office seekers."

I am I confess to you, yet to learn what good this system can produce. If there were two names that under this system it could be hoped would exercise some influence in the Council, if there were two names to which an administration owed some gratitude for their having joined it, as French Canadians, those two names were certainly those of Viger and Papineau—and yet now you learn from Mr. Draper that His Excellency is ready to give them their *congé!!* Is this in order to form a new administration for Lower Canada? Oh no! It is only to make a patchwork [*replaturage*] of an administration that Mr. Draper confesses does not represent Lower Canada, and that it is wished to reform, substituting for the names of Viger and Papineau two other French Canadian names, by the aid of which it would be hoped no doubt to create amongst us a little more division than has been created by the first named. Since it is then proposed to give the *congé* to Messrs. Viger and Papineau, why not also give the *congé* to

Messrs. Daly and Smith? Is it because the latter represent Lower Canada more than the former? Messrs. Viger and Papineau might at least invoke the past in their favour, whilst the others have nothing but the present, and I leave you to judge what that is. Poor Mr. Viger! If this is the treatment destined for him, treatment which it is said they are ready to administer to him, I am not surprised to see, so to speak, that the officers of the Government only speak of him with derision. Two men thus placed, thus treated, can they exercise a great influence over the deliberations of the Council, and cause the interests of their countrymen to be respected there? If that influence is nothing, as must be presumed, after the avowal of Mr. Draper, how can Mr. Taschereau who only follows in their wake, and to whom moreover the door of the Council is shut, expect to do better than them? What such a state of things would bring us to, or rather what it would perpetuate, would be to accept office at any price. What French Canadians should do above every thing is to remain united and to make themselves respected. They will make themselves respected in the Council, and will thence exercise the legitimate influence which is due to them, not when they are represented there only by the passive instruments of power, however numerous they may be, but when they shall be constitutionally represented there by a Lower Canadian administration formed in harmony with principles which public opinion does not repudiate. The step taken by Mr. Draper towards you is in every respect similar with that which Mr. Sullivan took towards you and me at Quebec in July, 1842. It was then acknowledged that the administration of the day which was that which Lord Sydenham bequeathed to Sir Charles Bagot, did not represent Lower Canada. It was desired as now to add to it one or two French names only as French Canadians. You know all that followed, I have no occasion to remind you of it. The same scene is on the eve of being re-enacted, or I am much mistaken; unless, indeed the system of accepting places at all price should, by accomplishing the wishes of the office-seekers, throw our countrymen into a deadly division and weakness. Lord Metcalfe is the Lord Sydenham, and his successor will be the Sir Charles Bagot. I arrive then at a conclusion regarding which you cannot misunderstand me. It is, that as regards the Administration, Lower Canada should have what is granted to Upper Canada—nothing more, but also nothing less. This is the sincere expression of my views. If I am mistaken, the error is mine. I may regret it, without doubt, but come what may, I desire above every thing, to remain at peace with my own convictions, which are my conscience.

I cannot close without saying a word upon my position with respect to my political friends. I have often said, and I again repeat it, that no personal consideration for me should prevent them from forming part of an Administration, which for Lower Canada should be organized, in accordance with the constitutional principles which ought to direct our conduct. I will never be an instrument to divide my countrymen. If an Administration should be formed which commands my confidence, I will support it with all my heart. If that Administration has not my confidence, but possesses that of the majority of my countrymen, being unable to support it, I would cheerfully withdraw from the House rather than cause division

in our ranks. If, under the system of accepting office at any price, there are persons who, for a personal and momentary advantage, do not fear to break the only bond which constitutes our strength, viz., union among ourselves, I do not wish to be, and I never will be, of the number. Having no desire to keep secret my thoughts or my political views, I permit you to make whatever use of this letter you think best.

I am,

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*]

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 17th Sept., 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—After the conversation I had with you at Montreal last month, I promised you that I would place myself in Communication with some influential persons, belonging to the French Canadian party, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there would not be some means of effecting an arrangement under which they might be induced to take a share in the administration and to join the party now in power.—My last letter will have informed you that I had been endeavouring to keep my promise, and will have acquainted you with the causes which had retarded the conclusion of my negociation; it is only to-day that I have been enabled to inform you of the result of my undertaking, and in doing so I will speak to you with that frankness which you have a right to expect from me after the confidence you have shown me.

If I correctly recollect our conversation,—after having premised that there were in the two Sections of the Province two great parties,—your own in Upper, and that to which I belong in Lower Canada,—you insisted upon the advantages which would result to the Province generally, and to Lower Canada in particular, from the Union of these two great parties, the result of which would be a strong administration enjoying the confidence of the great majority of the people throughout the whole country.—You spoke to me of the mischief arising to that portion of the population to which I belong, from the isolation from public affairs to which we had been for some time subjected; and you shewed me the best possible reasons for wishing that the arrangement first mentioned should be accomplished in order to obviate the state of things last referred to.

When we came to examine the difficulties to be encountered in reaching this result, we paused upon the following, as being those which appeared to us to be the most serious:—1st, All the seats in the Council being filled, how was room to be found for those it might be wished to introduce into it.—2nd, Would it be just to leave out and to abandon certain influential individuals justly respected by the party whose support is

sought for, and who yet, from their peculiar position, could not make part of an Administration so long as His Excellency the present Governor in Chief should remain at the head of the Government ? 3rd. There are now in the Council individuals with whom the said members it is desirable to introduce could with difficulty be upon friendly terms. Several other details were also touched upon, but as compared with the other difficulties they were considered as of little moment and easy to be arranged.

This view of the subject is that which I presented to those of my friends whom I have consulted, and I must at once assure you that I have not met with a single one, who did not, like you and me, sincerely desire to see an end put to a division so contrary to the interests of the country ; all were of one mind as to the necessity of a change, and agreed that such change to be beneficial ought to be effected by means of a coalition between the two parties most numerous and influential in either section of the Province, and, I have reason to be pleased with the disposition which I have found to endeavour to accomplish this object.

The desirableness and the necessity of the thing being once admitted, the means of accomplishing it were next to be considered, and on this point even there was but one opinion. It was admitted as a principle, that the administration of affairs (so far as it belongs to the Council) ought to be in the hands of the two dominant parties in the two sections of the Province ; that the administration ought no more to govern Lower Canada by means of a majority drawn from Upper Canada, than it ought to govern Upper Canada by the aid of Lower Canada ; that any administration ought to remain in power so long only as it should be supported by the majority in each section of the Province, respectively ; it was said that things were as they ought to be with regard to Upper Canada, where the administration was supported by the majority, but that it was not the same in our portion of the Province, where the minority only supported the Ministry while the majority opposed it ; that there was, nevertheless, no reason why things should not be put upon the same footing here as there ; and that this could only be done by making such arrangements that the party representing the majority here could join the administration upon terms honourable to them and consistent with their principles.

No objection is made as to the manner in which the Council is composed as far as regards Upper Canada, the same apportionment of power is demanded for Lower Canada. It is thought that the persons now in office ought not to form an obstacle to the desirable arrangement,—since by accepting office under the system of Government now established, they must have expected and must be willing to resign, from the moment when others should, from circumstances, become better able than they to conduct the public business advantageously for the country. It is therefore thought that if it be necessary to create a greater number of vacancies in the Council than was spoken of by us, the interest or personal convenience of those whom the change would affect ought not to be taken into consideration,—it is maintained that it would be necessary that the offices in question should be filled by men who enjoy the confidence of the greatest number and that if

this rule be adopted, the first difficulty of which we spoke, (that of finding seats for those whom it would be desirable to bring into the administration,) would at once disappear. It is thought that some one should be entrusted to elaborate and to settle the basis of the new arrangement, and to submit the names of those, whom it should be found desirable to include;—while it is wished to give a majority in the administration, as regards this section of the Province, to the party which forms the majority here, there is a disposition to give the minority a reasonable share in the direction of affairs, and to see it fairly represented in the Council—some names which have been mentioned as coming within the class here alluded to, would, I think, give general satisfaction.

The difficulty whichwe both felt with regard to the exclusion, under the proposed arrangement, of certain influential and prominent persons, who under other circumstances would of necessity be included, has been fully appreciated. Nevertheless, adhering to the principle above stated, that personal considerations ought to be disregarded and the general good above all to be consulted,—it was subsequently understood by all, that it would be a contradiction of this principle to insist, as a condition of the arrangement, upon the admission of those against whom it was known that there existed objections which there was no hope of removing;—it was thought that they might be omitted for the moment, without committing any injustice or appearing to sacrifice them, convinced as all are, that the persons in question will know how to appreciate the motive by which their friends are actuated, and that they will not consider themselves abandoned, because those friends yield to a necessity which they all regret. As regards one of these persons Mr. Lafontaine, I am authorized to say from him, that he will see with pleasure the formation of an administration enjoying the confidence of the country, and that he will cheerfully support any administration, although he may not be a member of it, which shall be composed of persons whose principles he approves,—I have therefore understood, and state to you as nearly certain, that the second of the objections we spoke of is far from being insurmountable.

As to the third difficulty (the presence in the Council, as now composed, of persons who would prevent the entry into it of those whose services would he required)—it is met by the same reasoning which has been suggested as that by which the first may be surmounted;—for it is said that if there be found in the Council some persons with whom it is probable that those whom the interest of the country makes it requisite to bring into it, could not sit, it is clearly necessary that such members should resign their seats, and that in so doing they would do no more than comply with the condition to which they submitted on accepting office.

What I have now stated must convince you that the conviction here is, that the administration, as regards this portion of the Province ought to be reconstructed,—that any change made by introducing one or two members in the places of an equal number who should retire, would produce no effective result,—would bring no strength to the Ministry, and would only isolate from their fellow countrymen those who should accept office,—that the

measure would be totally useless to the Government at the same time that it would be very injurious (in a political point of view) to those who should become parties to it.

I think I am not mistaken when I tell you that such is the opinion of all those to whom I have spoken, and this being the case, you will find no person disposed to lend himself to the arrangement you contemplate, (that of putting new men in the seats of the two members who would retire) or, that if you find any one willing to do so, his services will be of no kind of use to you.

Such is the information I have been able to gather; I believe it to be consonant to the opinion of the great majority of those who take part in politics in this portion of the Province. The realization of the desired coalition is not without difficulty but it is *possible*,—and if it offers the only means of putting an end to our troubles, it must be accomplished. If I could contribute to bring about such a state of things, I should account myself very fortunate, and for this purpose, as for every other which may tend to the welfare of the country, you may always command my services.

Trusting that you will have the goodness to pardon the want of arrangement in this letter, written as it is in the midst of a multitude of business, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with the highest consideration and esteem, dear Sir, your very humble and devoted servant,

ED. CARON.

[*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*]

MONTREAL, 16th October, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—You may not have observed by the papers that I have been rather more than a month absent on circuit, from which I returned only yesterday, and you will, I am sure, readily excuse me that I do no more at this moment than acknowledge the receipt of your's of the 17th, and thank you most sincerely for the frank explanations it contains.

You will feel that some reflection is necessary before I can fully appreciate how far any exertions of mine are likely to be successful in bringing to a favourable result the subject of OUR conference. My heart is earnestly engaged in the effort to obtain a result so beneficial:—content either to share in the task or to witness its successful accomplishment by others.

You shall hear from me as soon as I can possibly devote to the subject the time its importance demands—for no one will better understand than yourself that while individually I am ready to make any effort to attain an end I consider so desirable, and for that purpose have fully opened to you my desire to learn what prospect there was of success with those with

whom you are more particularly connected, I have to secure, much co-operation, as well as to enter into much consultation, with those *with*, as well as those *under*, whom I am acting, ere I shall be able to reply to you in the same spirit as you have so kindly addressed me.

Believe me, my dear sir, with every sentiment of respect, sincerely your's,

W. H. DRAPER.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 20th October, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—You promised to send me a copy of your letter to Mr. Draper, I have not yet received it. *I should like to see it in order not to expose myself in conversation, to saying any thing which might make the contents known.*

Mr. Draper has been in town since the beginning of last week.

If you have no objection, I should much like you to communicate to Mr. Aylwin the nature of this correspondence, at least of my answer. Although I should have nothing to do with the reorganization of the Ministry, if that takes place, and that consequently, I am free from all responsibility in that respect, yet I think it is right that Mr. Aylwin should know my views on the subject. I assure you I should like also to have them communicated to Messrs. Taschè, Chauveau and Cauchon. I must, however, leave that to your decision.

Mr. Draper ought to insist on the entire reconstruction of the Ministry for Lower Canada, or resign; otherwise his step is a blunder.

Your's,

(Signed,) L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

QUEBEC, 24th October, 1845.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—The public meeting held here yesterday, on the subject of a rail-road between Halifax and Quebec, having lasted longer than I expected, it was out of my power to write to you, as I had said in my note of the day before that I would. I acquit myself to-day of this promise, as well as of that which I made you some time ago, of transmitting to you a copy of the letter which I wrote to Mr. Draper, in answer to the communication which he had made to me, and which I have already imparted to you. If I have not sent you this copy sooner, it is that I have seen in the *Pilot* and the *Minerve*

something which made me think that our correspondence had got wind, and that there were more persons in the secret than those of whom you spoke to me in the first instance. I did not take offence at this, because I see nothing that can be found fault with in what I have done; but as I was of opinion that it was better for the success of the undertaking, that the plan should be matured before it became too public, I have thought it right to retain the letter until the arrival of Morin, who has been expected here for some time, and to whom I wished to speak of the affair, and deliver the letter according to the explanation which he might give me; but Morin not coming, and your note of the 20th calling upon me to keep my promise, I do it very willingly, *relying entirely upon you as to the use you will make of this letter.*

Since Mr. Draper's arrival at Montreal, I have received from him a note, in which he acknowledges the receipt of my letter, which had reached him only after his return—he thanks me for the frankness with which I have spoken to him; without expressing an opinion, he tells me that the subject is of the highest importance, and requires the most serious consideration; that before replying with the unreservedness I had used towards him, he must take advice and reflect; that as soon as these consultations and reflections shall have taken place, I shall have a communication from him, which I will immediately transmit to you.

I shall have pleasure in communicating to Aylwin, at the first good opportunity, our correspondence, and that which I have had with Mr. Draper; I have not yet spoken to him on the subject, because it appeared to me that it would come better from you, to whom I had addressed myself, as to the chief of the former administration, and chief of the party with which there appeared to be a desire to form an alliance. But since you wish it, I will see Aylwin; I wished to see him yesterday, but could not meet him.

As for Messrs. Taschè, Chauveau and Cauchon, whom you mention in your note, it is from you or from Morin that the announcement ought to come; when that shall have been done, you may refer them to me, I will give them all the information I possess, but I object to taking the first steps; I am of opinion that the thing ought not to be concealed from them, it would be very wrong to do so; but I have my reasons for thinking that the communication ought to be made to them by you, or at least by Morin.

My letter to Mr. Draper will show you that, like yourself, I am of opinion that the administration for this part of the Province, ought to be re-constructed, and that Mr. Draper ought to insist upon the thing.

Your's,

(Signed,) R. E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(*From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 26th October, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I have received your letter, dated the day before yesterday, and the copy of that which you addressed to Mr. Draper on the 17th of last month.

Morin, who will hand you this letter, will tell you that it is not our correspondence which has given rise to the articles in the *Pilot* and the *Minerve*, to which you allude.

The negociation with which you have been entrusted by Mr. Draper has reached a point at which it ceases to concern me personally. I do not regret it, for it relieves me from all responsibility ; and as my exclusion from a new organization of the Ministry thwarts neither my views nor my tastes, I have given my consent to it only the more readily.

There are, however, two points, in your letter to Mr. Draper, on which I must make some remarks,—

Firstly.—On account of the generality of your expressions in some parts of your letter, some persons might, perhaps, give it a meaning different from that which you have no doubt intended to attach to it—they might, perhaps, interpret your letter as admitting in principle that a political party, under our present form of Government, ought to sacrifice one of its members when the caprice of a Governor demands it. If such an opinion should be entertained by some persons of our party, I wish to seize this opportunity to declare that that opinion is not mine. A political party may demand sacrifices from one of its members, but it ought never to immolate him to the rancour or caprices of a Governor.

Secondly.—The part of the same letter in which you speak of the equity of calling the minority to the direction of affairs, seems to require explanation. From its wording, it appears to me to contradict, in some degree, what you had already said on the same subject in another part of your letter. Morin will communicate to you the objection which I made to the wording of this passage.

Your Friend,

(Signed) L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*]

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, Nov. 19, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will, after the kind confidence you have placed in me, expect to hear again from me what, under all circumstances, I think should be attempted, in order to accomplish the single end we have proposed to ourselves, viz., to facilitate the formation of a Government which would possess the confidence of the country generally. I have reflected again and again on the matter, with an anxious desire to effect a good understanding with the party with whom you are connected, as constituting the majority of Lower Canada Representatives in the House of Assembly. The illness of Lord Metcalfe has prevented my laying the question before him. But the result of my own views I may fully lay before you.

I feel sensibly that there are obligations which as a politician and a man of honour, I cannot throw aside as regards others,—while, on the other hand, I feel free to expect from others that which, on public grounds,

I am prepared to do. Now I am, as I told you, ready to make way as regards my own office. I do not value public life enough to *cling* to it, or to take any course but that which I can openly justify to remain in it. So much for myself.

I have felt our Council required to be strengthened, and that the offices of Speaker of the Legislative Council and President of the Executive Council might be united as a public saving in furtherance of my design.

The position of Mr. Viger, I feel entitles him to every possible consideration on my part. Every regard to his feelings and his wishes should, and must be, (as I am sure you will feel,) shewn by me. But I will not conceal from you, nor indeed have I, that I have long viewed his retirement from the position he occupies as essential to the strengthening of the Government. The mode of effecting it is another consideration.

As to my other Lower Canada colleagues, Messrs. Daly, Papineau and Smith, I can state to you what I believe to be their feelings, especially the two former. They are not anxious to stick to office, to embarrass the present or any future Governor in reforming his Council. With Mr. Papineau I have often held conversations, from which I feel certain that he would not hesitate a moment between retiring to benefit his country, and remaining to create difficulty. With regard to Mr. Smith, I have held no conversation with him on the possible question of his retirement.

I can answer for Mr. Morris and Mr. Cayley, as for myself, that our holding office is dependent, on our doing so on terms which will not compromise our characters as individuals, and will be of public service. If either of these grounds fail, we would retire. No difficulty can arise with either of us in making any arrangements for a good government.

This being premised, I wish now to put to you this question, to prevent all misunderstanding hereafter, and to enable me to act fairly in the matter towards those *with* whom and *through* whom I have to act,—as I intimated to you in my last,—" What offices would require to be vacated, or what changes made in the present Administration, in order to satisfy the just expectations of the French Canadians generally, and to secure their support ?" I do not ask you to name—as the time for such a proposition has not arrived, nor would this be the way to make it. But if I can state distinctly what is expected as the *sine qua non*, I am in a position to lay the case fairly before the proper parties, and to consult with them all as to what we will advise. You will, I am sure, see I cannot otherwise act an honourable part to my colleagues.

Hitherto our communications have been of a character confined to ourselves. From my esteem for your character, and my confidence in your judgment, and, from the high position you hold, I sought an explanation that I might—opening my own views—ascertain (if you felt right to communicate yours,) what prospect there was of a *rapprochement*. So far our confidence I believe has been mutual. Your last letter contains a frank and interesting *exposé* of the general view of yourself and political friends.

I can now go forward the moment I have your answer; but as my course forward is to lay the question before the Governor and my colleagues I cannot do this, involving your name, without full consent, and, added to it, the expression of your opinion on the question I have put as to the necessary changes.

Believe me, &c.

(From the Hon. A. N. Morin to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 24th Nov. 1845.

DEAR SIR, AND FRIEND,—Our friend to whom your last letter was addressed, does not intend to take upon himself to reply to it, and that not from any motive of a personal nature towards you, for you know to the contrary, but because in the present aspect of affairs, he thinks it proper for him to abstain from taking any active part in the business; and he tells me that he intimated as much to you in his last letter. His advice, however, I am assured, will not be withheld from us, and it is only after a long conversation with him that I write to you.

My first intention was to write you a long letter, containing the result of that conversation; but you know that for a letter of any length, I am obliged to employ another hand; I do so even in this instance, suffering from rheumatism at this moment.

We thought afterwards that a letter would afford a very imperfect means of communication. For this reason, in spite of the advanced season, it is perhaps of the highest importance that you should come to Montreal, more, even, for the purpose of having a clear understanding with your principal correspondent, than to learn what we ourselves think—if you cannot come, I shall be under the necessity of writing the letter I intended to write. But we think that in any event an interview with your correspondent would obviate many of the dangers which attend writing, and would afford you the means of discussing the subject more thoroughly and more amply.

Our principal remark on the whole, is that your correspondent has changed his ground, that he has almost resumed, although on a larger scale, the position which he held before your letter; that he wishes to make us responsible for a portion of the subject with which we do not interfere, and that he proceeds still by names and exceptions, instead of placing the two contracting parties on a footing of equality, and of admitting that the position to be held by each results from the support they respectively receive from their friends.

This is the best I can say to you in brief and in this form. If you will be so good as to let me know your determination, I will give it effect with

all speed, and in all sincerity. If, as implied in the last letter of your correspondent, you are to be the principal in this affair, we shall rejoice at it.

Believe me, very sincerely, your friend,

(Signed) A. N. MORIN.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(*From the Hon. A. N. Morin to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

MONTREAL, 24th November, 1845.

DEAR SIR & FRIEND,—Since the enclosed has been written and sealed, some one has conveyed to Mr. Lafontaine the following lines :

" Mr. ————'s compliments to Mr. Lafontaine, and begs to inform " him that His Excellency the Governor General has received dispatches last " evening ordering him home—he leaves on Wednesday."

Thus, it is, perhaps, prudent on your part to temporize, by restoring your man to the position in which you placed him. Perhaps, also, on his side, he will think proper to postpone the subject. In any case, we persist in thinking that your presence at Montreal is very much to be desired. I forgot to inform you that the rumor of the departure of the Governor was known from another source at the office of the *Pilot* this morning. Is it the War, or a conviction that affairs cannot go on any longer, even in ordinary times ?

Your Friend,

(Signed) A. N. MORIN.

(*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

MONDAY, 24th November, 1845.

PRIVATE.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from Monklands.—Her Majesty has been pleased to give Lord Metcalfe authority to give up the administration of the affairs of the Province into the hands of Earl Cathcart, temporarily until a successor can be appointed.—His Excellency means to avail himself of the permission, and to leave for England on Wednesday.—This may affect your view of my note to you, and I think it right to give you prompt intimation.

Your's faithfully and sincerely,

W. H. DRAPER.

The last mail brings news of several thousand pounds for the Quebec sufferers.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. A. N. Morin.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 25th November, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR AND FRIEND,—I have received your two letters dated yesterday; they informed me of the departure of the Governor as to-morrow. This event, which I expected, and which could not have been delayed, confirms me in the line of conduct which I had proposed to myself to follow. I have told you from the beginning, and I think I have written it, that all I intended to do in receiving the communications which were made to me was to transmit them to those whom I considered most likely to know the opinions of the party which it was desired to win back, and to which overtures were made. I willingly undertook the office of a mediator between the recognized leaders of that party and the administration, or rather one of the members of the administration, because I thought I perceived temporary difficulties which prevented these communications from being made directly. I never understood that I was charged with the formation of an administration, and in fact I have never been charged with it, either directly or indirectly; and I think also I told you that if the thing were proposed to me, I should refuse it, and certainly I should have done so. On receiving the last letter from Draper, I immediately transmitted it without comment to Lafontaine, in order to know from him and from you what answer was to be given to it; but as I foresaw what has happened, the departure of the Governor, I was quite determined not to go any further in the business for the moment, feeling sure that the reasons which had caused me to figure in it were soon about to disappear, and that the present administration could very soon treat without any difficulty with the persons who alone are competent to make the necessary changes in it, I allude to Lafontaine, to you, and to the rest of your former colleagues to whom the satisfaction is due, and to whom it belongs, to say how it should be made. For me to remain longer on the scene would be to retard and complicate your operations, it is you, now, who must be applied to, and I am so convinced of that being the course to be pursued, that I shall write immediately to Mr. Draper to that effect. I act thus in justice to you, assuring you at the same time that if you think my assistance can be of use to you in any way, it shall not fail you, and that you will always find me ready to help you by all the means in my power.

According to these views, you see that my presence in Montreal would be useless, and besides, I could not leave this before two or three days; you see also, by what precedes, that you have no cause to fear my spoiling things by going too fast or too far.

In the steps which you will have to adopt, it will perhaps be of some use to you to know that in the letters which I have written and in those which I have transmitted or communicated to you, is found all that has passed between Mr. Draper and myself on the subject which has occupied us.

In the first of our letters you ask me to make known to you my determination, I will tell you that I had not formed any, that that which I might have formed would no longer be suitable, and that now I do not think it necessary to form any.

I thank you for the confidence you shew me when you say that if I am to be the principal in this affair you will rejoice at it, and it is without flattery

and in all sincerity that I tell you that the thing can only go on well if conducted by you and Lafontaine, and that it is this conviction which has brought me to the determination not to meddle with it in any way, unless it be to assist you if it is in my power.

I am, &c., your's,

(Signed,) ED. CARON.

(*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

CONFIDENTIAL.

MONTREAL, 26th Nov. 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,—The departure of Lord Metcalfe took place this morning. Although this change in no respect alters the opinion I entertain on the necessity of strengthening the local Administration, it materially alters the position in which I am and may be placed, and still more the powers I may have to effect anything beneficial and satisfactory.

I felt it my duty on Monday—the day on which I had the first official communication of His Lordship's intention—to apprize you of it, and in the same spirit I mention to you how I feel my position affected, as you have a right to expect from me the earliest intimation of every thing which may influence your own opinions and actions in this matter.

Believe me, &c.

W. H. DRAPER.

[*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*]

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 26th November, 1845.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your note of the 24th. At the same time that you inform me of His Excellency's departure, you say, that you hasten to give me the information, because the news may perhaps change my views as to the nature of the last letter you wrote me. The opinion you have formed is perfectly correct, and the departure of His Excellency must indeed change my position.

You know that in the communications which have passed between us, I have not acted as the leader of a party ; I have only lent myself, and that most willingly, as an intermediary between those whom our party regards as its *leaders*, and yourself, in order to forward to them the communications you made to me, and also to transmit to you their views and their ideas upon the subject on which we were engaged. In per

forming the task I undertook, I have not concealed from you my own opinions, but they have formed but a secondary consideration, and my object has constantly been to let you know what was desired and demanded by the leaders of the party with whom you wished to negotiate an agreement. I lent my aid for this purpose, solely because I knew that there existed for the moment obstacles which made it impossible that any communication should easily be made directly between the administration and those with whom it was necessary to communicate in order to attain the desired end. It seems to me that these obstacles exist no longer, and cannot again arise, and consequently, that my mission must cease with the causes out of which it arose.

I should, nevertheless, be sorry that you should infer from this, that I refuse my aid towards an arrangement which we both desire ; far from this, I am ready to do all in my power to facilitate it, and to hasten its conclusion. But as you have upon the spot those gentlemen on whom the success of the arrangement mainly depends, it would be more proper, more easy, and more expeditious to treat directly with them, at the same time, that I invite you to use no ceremony with me, and to point out to me freely in what way I can be useful.

I am, Dear Sir,

Very Sincerely Your's,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

QUEBEC, 6th February, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I now acquit myself of my promise to send you copies of the letters which were wanting to complete the correspondence which has taken place between you and me and between Mr. Draper and me.

I rely on your discretion as to the use you will make of a correspondence commenced with the understanding that it should be confidential. I do not intend, however, to deprive you of the advantage which it might procure you, and I do not at all shrink from the responsibility of what I have written, and suggested ; but I have a right to expect that you will not make of all this a subject of discussion in the newspapers.

I am, dear friend, your's,

(Signed) E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 10th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I am on the point of going into the country, from which I shall not return until Thursday evening. Thinking that perhaps you would like to have, before that time, my answer on the subject which occupied us on Sunday, I write you these lines, which contain what I think of the proposal you then made me to give publicity, either in my own name or otherwise, to the entire correspondence between Mr. Draper and me, and between you and me, since the month of September last.

I have given much attention to this proposal, and I have done so with a sincere desire to be able to come to the conclusion which you seem to wish, namely, that of giving my consent to such publication; but I regret to say that I have not yet been able to convince myself of the propriety of such a step, and of the advantages which might result from it. As to doing the thing in my name, I see nothing which could, on my part, justify such an action; as to ever giving my consent to it, the circumstances and the understanding in which this correspondence was begun and continued, make me think that I cannot do so with propriety.

I have not failed to reflect on the pretence which you put forth, that the correspondence in question having been conducted by me as an intermediate party only, was rather yours than mine, and that you have, therefore, a right to make such use of it as you think proper. I must admit that I would find this unanswerable if, in opening this correspondence with me, you had not yielded, tacitly at first and afterwards expressly to the condition imposed by me, that in case of failure the matter should remain between ourselves. Notwithstanding this, you may be right, and I leave you to judge. If your position is correct, you have no need of my consent; *if you make the publication in virtue of the right you pretend to have, I reserve to myself that of saying that you have acted without my sanction and against my advice.* If you decide on publishing, there are in my letters several parts which should be left out, your excellent judgment will point out these to you. Whatever may be the determination to which you come, I flatter myself our mutual friendship and esteem will not suffer in the least, and that you will consider me as heretofore.

Your devoted confrère and friend,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 11th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your letter of yesterday's date, was not handed to me until quite late the same day, that is to say, after the adjournment of the Court of Appeals, where I had the pleasure of seeing you.

Before answering this letter at length, in the event of my thinking proper to do so, as well for the purpose of rectifying some inaccuracies, as for that of asserting a claim to that justice which is due to my friends and to myself; permit me to request you to inform me, if your refusal to consent to what you call the *publicity* of the correspondence in question, extends to all possible cases in which I might, in accordance with constitutional usages, especially in my capacity of Member of the House of Assembly, be called upon to speak of this correspondence, and if, in a case of that kind, you think you have a right to require that I should preserve silence as to the contents of this correspondence, so absolutely as to have no discretion to exercise in this respect, either in my own personal interest, or in that of the party to which I belong.

Your's

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

TRANSLATION.

(*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.*)

MONTREAL, 16th March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—After the conference we had on Sunday last, I think we understand each other perfectly, as to the use which you may make of our correspondence ; therefore it is scarcely necessary to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 11th, called forth by mine of the day before, that the refusal on my part, contained in the latter, to consent to what I might have called *publication* instead of *publicity* of the correspondence in question, does not extend to the possible cases in which you might, *according to constitutional usages*, and especially in your capacity of Member of the House of Assembly, *be called upon* to speak of this correspondence, but that it is distinctly understood that in such a case I by no means claim the right to exact that you should preserve silence as to the contents of this correspondence, that on the contrary you have full liberty to exercise in this respect a judicious discretion, as well in your own interest as in that of the party to which you belong.

Your's,

ED. CARON.

(*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

PRIVATE.

MONTREAL, 19th March, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received your note of this date, informing me that in reference to certain communications, partly verbal and partly written, which had passed between us in relation to the administration of public affairs in this Province, and the introduction into office of gentlemen, like yourself, of French Canadian origin, that you had, from the necessity of consulting with the chiefs of the party with whom you were connected,

transmitted to them my letters addressed to you; that these letters are now actually in the possession of your friends, to whom you had sent them; that you are ignorant what use they may intend to make of them, but, anticipating that they may possibly make them public, you felt it your duty to communicate the fact to me, that, in case our correspondence should become public, I might know under what circumstances it had passed out of your hands.

Our communications began by a conversation, sought for on my part with you, in which I expressed my desire to ascertain (if you thought fit to place that confidence in me) whether the obstacles in the way of bringing into office gentlemen such as yourself were not to be surmounted, and I said that unless gentlemen of opposite parties could place sufficient reliance on each other's honour and character, to converse frankly and confidentially on such a subject, there could be no means of ascertaining their respective opinions, or whether any "*rapprochement*" between them was possible. I understood you to assent to this proposition, and I then discussed with you my views as to the state of political parties, and the possibility of bringing the French Canadian party into a position by which they would exercise a just share in administering public affairs. You made me aware that you must confer with others before you could inform me what probability there was that any result could be attained. To such conference, however, I was no party—to this moment I do not know the names of the parties with whom it was to be held—nor, so far as you informed me, was my name to be made use of.

The letters which I addressed to you, in furtherance of our conversation, were, on my part, certainly written in the same spirit of confidence which as I understood was to govern our conversation. They were all, if I mistake not, marked in a manner unequivocally to shew this,—in fact, as strongly as is consistent with a proper regard of what is due, and should be left, to the honour of a gentleman.

The course which your friends, in whose hands you had placed these letters, may take in forcing you into the position of being a party to making that public which was confidential, and communicated in reliance on your character, is a matter in respect to which I do not feel I have anything to do. It of course, rests between you and them. As regards myself, I must observe that I never supposed, nor did you, until your note of this morning, ever intimate to me that you had placed the letters, which I addressed to you, out of your own control, or even that you had put it into the power of any third party to violate the confidence we had placed in each other. On my part, I can assure you, I had invariably taken care, in all communications with others to which the subject matter of our correspondence gave rise, to secure that your name should not be brought into question.

I have felt it due to myself to make this reply to your note, that the opinion I entertain of the character of our communications may be known to

you as soon as possible after I am apprized of the position in which you are placed with your own friends in regard to it.

Believe me, &c.

W. H. DRAPER.

(*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*)

TETU'S HOTEL, 19th March, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—The object I had in view in the communications which have passed between us, was,—as I have frequently told you in writing and personally,—to make you acquainted with the views and opinions of my political friends, in order to see whether it might not be possible to come to an arrangement with them—in order to fulfil the mission I had undertaken, it was absolutely necessary to consult the leaders of the party with whom I had to negotiate. As many of them lived at a distance, I adopted, as the easiest and most open mode of communication, the plan of sending to them both your letters and my own, as they were exchanged between us. It thus happens that the important part of our correspondence is now in the possession of the friends to whom I sent it. I am not aware what use they intend to make or can make of these documents, but anticipating the possibility of their using them and making them public, I think it my duty to mention the fact to you, in order that if our correspondence should become public you may know under what circumstances the thing took place, and how and why the papers that compose it passed out of my hands.

I am, as ever,

Dear Sir, your's,

E. CARON.

[*Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*]

SUNDAY, 22d March, 8 P. M.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I called at your hotel—you were not in—I leave with you a *summary* which I have just drawn. I have not read it a second time, expecting to read it with you. Do me the favor to return it to-morrow morning early, and to state whether his mode suits you—I believe it is the best.

Your's truly,

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

MONDAY MORNING, 23d March, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your abstract of my two first letters does not please me at all; the form which you give to these communications is too solemn—too little in accordance with the tone of mind in which they were written.

I repeat it, I shall regret the necessity which will have forced you to put before the public a correspondence conducted, on my part, without he least thought of its being destined for publication; but if, in the judicious discretion that you have to exercise on the subject, you think proper to make my letters public, I prefer that they should be shown such as I wrote them, although in point of style they may not be what I would wish, and although they contain things which they would not have contained if they had not been addressed to an intimate friend, out of whose hands I did not expect they would pass.

These things, which you will easily distinguish, you will perhaps do me the justice to omit, not because I think I have written what is not true, but because all truths are not to be spoken at all times.

I am, dear Sir, your's,

(Signed,) R. E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

MONDAY, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—In returning you the papers which you had the kindness to lend me yesterday, I must inform you of the determination to which I have come of publishing myself and in my name the correspondence in question.

What has passed within these few days causes me to look upon this step as indispensable, both as regards myself and in the interest of those who have taken part in it

I would not have adopted this determination without consulting you and obtaining, before putting it into execution, your consent and that of Morin, if the opinions of both of you on this subject were not perfectly well known to me.

In making this publication I shall confine myself, of course, to the serious and important part of our correspondence, leaving out the private and familiar notes exchanged between us; unless indeed there should be some that you would like to make known, and which in that case I beg you to point out to me.

I would submit to you also the propriety of leaving out of your first letter the part in which you cite, in support of the principles you put forth, the example of several individuals occupying elevated stations in society and for whom it

might be disagreeable to be thus dragged before the public, and that without any great necessity, since your principles are sufficiently incontestable to have no need of being sustained by the examples which you cite. I will do, however, as you please in this respect.—I will publish the whole if you do not authorize me to leave out the part in question.

I am very sincerely,

Your's,

E. CARON.

(*From the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

TRANSLATION.

MONTREAL, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your letter of this day's date relieves me from a great embarrassment. Although the correspondence in question appears to me more than ever of a parliamentary public nature, I saw with much regret that you had latterly looked at it in another point of view. If I have differed from your view, notwithstanding all that has taken place in Parliament and out of Parliament, among the friends of the party to which I belong, * * * * You admit, now, the principle on which I had proposed to myself to act; you even claim a right to do it independently yourself—a right which I do not deny you. I think, then, that it is not fitting to multiply details as to the way in which you may give effect to your way of thinking, and leaving you entirely free, I note the fact that by your own admission I become equally so on my part, even if I was not so before.

I am, very sincerely,

Your devoted Servant,

L. H. LAFONTAINE.

(*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*)

MONTREAL, April, 6, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—The correspondence which passed between us, and, as a necessary consequence, between me and some of my friends to whom I was obliged to communicate it, has lately given rise to some debates in your House; the newspapers have taken up the subject, and it has become the theme of public discussions in which it is represented as altogether different from what it really is.

I have always thought that the publication of this correspondence, would be of no advantage, and have done all I could to prevent it;—but from the turn the business has taken and the state in which things now are, it seems to me preferable that the matter should appear in its true light, and should be judged of and appreciated according to its true merits and at what

it is really worth, and not according to reports which must be more or less false and erroneous.

I am therefore now of opinion, that it would be an act of justice to me, and for the interest of all those who have taken part in this correspondence that it should be at once published,—and that it should be so at my instance rather than in any other way. I flatter myself that you will coincide in opinion with me, and that you will give your consent to a proceeding which I had not anticipated and sincerely regret, but to which I am driven by circumstances.

In effecting the publication, I propose to leave out all that does not bear upon the principal matter;—I have looked upon many of your notes as destined for my eye alone; they have never been shewn, and have never gone out of my hands. These will be omitted, unless you express your wish to the contrary, of which you will please to inform me.

Waiting your answer, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your very devoted servant,

E. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(*From the Hon. W. H. Draper to the Hon. R. E. Caron.*)

MONTREAL, 6th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I delayed answering your note of this morning from the necessity of consulting some friends, as to the course I ought to take. A new feature has just presented itself. Mr. Lafontaine has, a few minutes ago, given Notice that to-morrow he will communicate the correspondence he has to the House. I do not know what portion of the correspondence between you and myself is in his hands—I assume that all that has been written is not. My consent to publication is now quite unnecessary, and I am, on the contrary, obliged to ask you to allow me to make public any thing you and I have interchanged, which Mr. Lafontaine either may not choose, or may not be able, from not possessing it, to communicate.

I am told that it has been asserted that some letter of Mr. Lafontaine to you was sent or communicated to me, and that I answered it. I wish your authority for stating that you never communicated to me, either Mr. Lafontaine's letter, or that of any other person relating to this matter, otherwise than your letter of the 17th September last may be considered communication of them.

Your answer before the House meet to-morrow will oblige

Your, my dear Sir,

Very faithfully,

W. H. DRAPER.

(*From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. W. H. Draper.*)

MONTREAL, 7th April, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—Before replying to your note of yesterday evening, I must inform you that at the same time that I wrote to you in the morning to inform you of my wish to publish our correspondence, I wrote also to Mr. Lafontaine, not for the purpose of asking his consent, for I knew that he wished for such publication, but to let him know that I had decided, under the new circumstances of the case, to do of my own accord, what I had before declined to permit.

In a note received from Mr. Lafontaine, in answer to mine, he has given me to understand, that my determination myself to publish it, was regarded as an abandonment of my opposition to the publication of the correspondence by others. It is, in all probability, in consequence of this mode of looking at the matter, that Mr. Lafontaine, now considers himself at liberty to do that which he was not at liberty to do before, and it is for this reason, I suppose, that he has given the notice of which you inform me in your note. However this may be, I have thought it right to put you in possession of the facts, and to acquaint you that I have no participation in this proceeding.

I pass now to the contents of your letter.

The portion of your correspondence which is in Mr. Lafontaine's possession, consists, if I mistake not, in the following documents:—

1st.—Two letters written by me to that gentleman, and dated respectively, the 7th and 8th of September, containing the substance of our conversation at Montreal, in the preceding August.

2ndly.—Your letter of the 16th October, in answer to mine of the 17th September.

3rdly.—My own letter of the 17th September.

4thly Your other letter of the 19th November, being a further reply to mine of the 17th September.

5thly.—The letter I wrote you on the 26th November.

The rest of my correspondence which is out of my possession, consists of several letters written by me on the subject in question to Messrs. Lafontaine and Morin, or which I have received from them. These letters have in fact formed the basis, in part of the communications I have made to you, and these gentlemen were the friends of whom I spoke in my letters to you;—but you never saw their letters, or mine to them, and their names were never mentioned to you, except that of Mr. Lafontaine in my letter of the 17th of September.

I therefore willingly give you the authority you ask for, to contradict in my name, any report which may tend to induce a belief, " that some of Mr. " Lafontaines's letters were sent or communicated to you, and that you " replied to them." The letter of the 17th September contains all the information derived from them, which has been communicated by me to you. That letter speaks for itself.

You are also authorized to make public such portions of our correspondence as you may think proper, and which Mr. Lafontaine may not wish or may not have it in his power to publish.

Hoping that this answer will be satisfactory to you, I subscribe myself,

Dear Sir,

Your very devoted servant,

ED. CARON.

[NOT BEFORE PUBLISHED.]

(From the Hon. R. E. Caron to the Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.)

TRANSLATION.

TUESDAY MORNING, 7th April, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR,—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, only for the purpose of preventing your inferring from my silence that I acquiesce in the doctrine it contains.—I am, on the contrary, of opinion that you give to my letter of Monday an interpretation of which it is not susceptible, and that you claim the benefit of an imaginary admission which is not to be found in that letter.

This is not the first time we have differed in opinion, I wish most sincerely that it may be the last.

In this hope I subscribe myself,

Your's,

R. E. CARON.

ABSTRACT

Of the Correspondence, both verbal and written, which has taken place between Mr. Caron and Mr. Draper, on the one part, and between the same and Messieurs Lafontaine and Morin, on the other part.

July 1st, 1845.—Conversation between Messrs. Draper and Caron, at Quebec, considered by the latter as confidential, and the contents of which were not communicated to any one previous to the month of September following.

August 1st.—Some time after Mr. Draper writes to Mr. Caron a private note, in which, reminding him of this conversation, he puts a few questions, to which Mr. Caron states in a note, that he will answer in Montreal.

Note from Mr. Caron, mentioning that he would go up to Montreal, and there give his answer.

August.—Conversation at Montreal, in which Mr. Draper requests Mr. Caron to consult his friends. (The abstract of that conversation will be found in the letter to Mr. Lafontaine of the 7th September.)

September 7th.—Letter to Mr. Lafontaine, containing an abstract of the above conversation.

September 8th.—Another letter to the same, on the same subject, and explaining the first, and containing the following paragraph :—*I need not tell you that my letter of yesterday is of a confidential nature; that it is to be communicated only to Morin, and such other friends upon whom you can rely, as in case the undertaking should be without result, it would be better for all parties that it should remain between us.*

September 8th.—First letter to Mr. Draper, informing him of the business being in progress.

September 10th.—Answer from Mr. Lafontaine. (In the meantime Mr. Morin comes down to Quebec, and as well on his own behalf as on that of Mr. Lafontaine, gives to Mr. Caron several explanations, of which notes were taken and kept by the latter, which explanations, together with Mr. Lafontaine's letter, formed the basis of the letter written to Mr. Draper on the 17th September.)

September 17th.—Letter to Mr. Draper. (A copy of this letter was sent to Mr. Lafontaine, at his request contained in his letter of the 20th October, alledging for his reason why he should have possession of this letter, the fear of speaking without knowing the contents thereof.)

October 16th.—Letter from Mr. Draper, acknowledging the receipt of that of the 17th September.

October 20th.—Letter from Mr. Lafontaine, requesting a copy of the letter of the 17th September, to Mr. Draper.

October 24th.—Letter from Mr. Caron, in answer, saying that no copy of that letter had been sent, because he thought he had remarked something

in the *Minerve* and the *Pilot*, which shewed that the affair had been communicated to more persons than had been agreed upon. (The letter of the 17th is then sent to Mr. Lafontaine, to whom the observance of great discretion is again recommended.)

October 26th.—Letter from Mr. Lafontaine, acknowledging the receipt of the preceding, as well as of Mr. Draper's answer of the 16th October, and says—that what appeared in the *Minerve* and the *Pilot* had no reference to the affair in question. (About this time the Editor of the *Pilot* comes to Quebec, and tells Mr. Caron that he has seen all the correspondence.)

November 19th.—Second letter from Mr. Draper, in answer to that of the 17th September, and promised in his letter of the 16th of October previous, which was not marked either private or confidential ; this letter of the 19th November, marked confidential, is sent, like the other, to Mr. Lafontaine.

November 24th.—Letter from Mr. Morin, announcing that Mr. Lafontaine withdraws himself from the affair—he promises a long letter which has not been sent—makes some observations on Mr. Draper's letter—begs Mr. Caron to come to Montreal, for the purpose of having an explanation with his correspondent—wishes to know what decision Mr. Caron has come to, without speaking of his own, which he reserves to himself the right of giving afterwards, and promises that although Mr. Lafontaine had withdrawn from the affair, his advice would not be withheld.

November 24.—Another Letter from Mr. Morin announcing the departure of the Governor Lord Metcalfe, recommends prudence in consequence of this event, and again urges Mr. Caron to come to Montreal.

November 24.—Note from Mr. Draper announcing also the departure of Lord Metcalfe, and saying that he gives this information in case this event should have the effect of changing Mr. Caron's opinions on the subject of the correspondence which had previously taken place.

November 25.—Letter from Mr. Caron to Mr. Morin announcing that Mr. Caron's mission is ended, that he informs Mr. Draper thereof, and that he will not go to Montreal.

November 26.—Letter to Mr. Draper informing him that Mr. Caron withdraws from the affair, and referring him to the leaders of the party who have been consulted, in Montreal.

February 19, 1846.—Note to Mr. Lafontaine accompanying copy of some parts of the correspondence which was not in his possession and which he had requested. Mr. Caron tells him that he relies on his discretion as to the use he will make of the letters to him transmitted.

March.—Mr. Caron meets in Montreal, in the Court House, Mr. Lafontaine who at once gives him to understand that he proposes publishing the correspondence. Mr. Caron expresses his surprise, and to come to an understanding on that point, an appointment is agreed upon for the next day at Mr. Lafontaine's, at which Mr. Morin was to be present. Mr. Caron proceeded the next day to the place appointed, and met Messrs. Lafontaine and Morin. Mr. Lafontaine appeared at once prepared without any previous consultation to write the order and the

mode in which the publication was to be made. Objection on Mr. Caron's part pretending:

1o. That he denied the right to publish without his consent.

2o. That he would refuse to give that consent until it was shown to him—first that he could do it without impropriety and in justice to the other party, and secondly that the country would be benefitted therefrom. The reasons offered by Messrs. Lafontaine and Morin appeared insufficient; however, Mr. Caron promised to consider of the matter, and to give his answer thereafter.

March 10.—Letter to Mr. Lafontaine containing that answer which was in the negative; containing the reasons of such refusal, saying that if the publication takes place in virtue of the right which Messrs. Lafontaine and Morin assume to have so to do as principals, in the correspondence, while Mr. Caorn was but their agent (pretention put forth in the above mentioned conversation), he Mr. Caron reserved to himself the right to say that the thing had been done without his consent and against his advice.

March 11th.—Letter from Mr. Lafontaine announcing a more lengthy *answer to rectify certain inaccuracies, and claim the justice due to his friends and himself.* In this letter it is asked whether that refusal on the part of Mr. Caron *to consent to the publication of the correspondence extends to all possible cases in which he (Mr. Lafontaine) might, according to constitutional usages, and particularly in his capacity of Member of the House, be* CALLED UPON *to speak of that correspondence.*

March 14th.—A Note to Mr. Lafontaine, in answer to the above by which likewise some extracts of letters and some explanations were asked, says that Mr. Caron, will willingly give the extracts and explanations asked for, and offering a second interview for the purpose of endeavouring to come, once for all, to an understanding. That interview takes place at Mr. Caron's the next day but one in Mr. Morin's presence. Mr. Caron, expresses a desire to know what was meant by "*possible cases,*" "*constitutional usages,*" &c., which were mentioned in Mr. Lafontaine's letter of the 11th. The tenure of the answer was that those cases could not be easily anticipated, and might arise at any time from various unforeseen events. One of the cases cited was in the event of Mr. Draper himself, mentioning the correspondence, or otherwise giving publicity to the same. Mr. Caron having reason to believe that the other cases were of a similar nature, answered that he certainly would not expect to force them to remain silent in the case cited, nor any other similar case. Whereupon it was proposed by Mr. Lafontaine to Mr. Caron, to withdraw his letter of the 10th March. The answer of the letter to this proposal was that he would think about it, and that if he did not withdraw his letter, he would furnish a written answer to Mr. Lafontaine's letter of the 11th March.

March 16th.—Letter to Mr. Lafontaine, containing the promised answer to his letter of the 11th, mentions the conversation which had taken place, and says, that his *refusal to consent to the publication of the correspondence,* (refusal comprised in Mr. Caron's letter of the 10th March,) *does not extend to possible cases in which you may in accordance with constitutional usages, and especially in your capacity of Member of the House of Assembly, be called upon to speak of that*

correspondence, but that it is distinctly understood that in such cases, I, by no means claim the right to exact that you should preserve silence as to the contents of that correspondence, that on the contrary you have full liberty to exercise in this respect a judicious discretion as well in your own interest as in that of the party to which you belong.

March 19th.—Letter from Mr. Draper in answer to the preceding, in which he complains strongly of his letters having been transmitted to third persons without his consent.

March 19th.—Letter from Mr Caron to Mr. Draper, informing him that some of his letters and of Mr. Caron's letters had been sent to the friends whom the latter had consulted, saying that he had considered this mode of communication the easiest, owing to his residing at a distance, and adding that he does not know what use they will make of them; but that he thinks it his duty to give him this notice, in order that, in the event of these letters being made public, he (Mr. Draper) may know how and why they have gone out of his (Mr. Caron's) hands.

March 22nd.—Note from Mr. Lafontaine, left at Mr. Caron's lodgings late in the evening, with an abstract prepared by Mr. Lafontaine, containing the summary of Mr. Caron's two letters, dated the 7th and 8th of September,; the note saying that he (Mr. Lafontaine) had come to read this abstract with Mr. Caron; that not finding him, he left it for him, and begging him to return it to him, if it suited, *early on the following morning*, and adding that the form adopted appeared to him the best

March 23rd.—Letter from Mr. Caron to Mr. Lafontaine; his abstract is returned to him with a remark that it does not please at all; it is added, that if in virtue of the *judicious discretion* that it has been admitted he has a right to exercise *in the possible cases in which he might be called upon to speak, &c.* he thought proper to publish the correspondence, Mr. Caron preferred its being published as it had been written, but intimating his wish that certain parts of these letters should be withheld from publication, not because he thought he had written what was not true, but because all truths are not to be spoken at all times.

At this period the newspapers announced that the Members of the House of Assembly, supporting the administration had met together; that the correspondence had been communicated and explained to them; that there had also been a meeting of the Members of the opposition at which the letters in Mr. Lafontain's possession had been read; in these same newspapers there were reports on the subject more or less false and ridiculous, and things were represented generally quite different from what they really were; for these reasons Mr. Caron, who was the only one of all the parties in possession of all the papers composing this correspondence, thought, that in justice to himself and for the interest of all those who had taken part in it he ought to publish it entire, and with this view on

April 5th.—He wrote to Mr. Lafontaine a note requesting him to send him the copies of his letters of the 7th and 8th September, the copies which he had not being altogether correct, nor agreeing with those in the

hands of Mr. Lafontaine, who sent him copies of these letters immediately, without comment.

Mr. Caron knowing that he ought not to publish without the sanction of the other parties to the correspondence wrote to Mr. Lafontaine, not to ask his consent to a publication, which he has been requesting a long time, but upon returning the papers which he had lent to him, Mr. Caron addressed to him his letter of

APRIL 6TH, informing him, that owing to the new circumstances which had since occurred, he had determined to effect in his own name the desired publication. Mr. Caron adds that he does not ask for his consent or that of Mr. Morin, because he knows their opinion on the matter, says that he will take care to omit such notes as are of a private and friendly nature, unless Mr. Lafontaine wishes the contrary, and Mr. Caron submits to Mr. Lafontaine the *propriety* of leaving out of his first letter (Mr. Lafontaine's letter of the 10th Sept.) the names of several very respectable persons who are named in that letter without much necessity, and for whom it would be unpleasant to be so brought before the public.

APRIL 6TH.—Letter from Mr. Lafontaine in answer to the above—says that the letter just received from Mr. Caron, relieves him from a great embarrassment; the correspondence seems to him more than ever of a *public parliamentary nature; saw with much* REGRET that Mr. Caron, *of late, had considered it on a different point of view; if he had hitherto deferred to Mr. Caron's way of viewing the matter, notwithstanding all that had taken place in Parliament and elsewhere, among the friends of the party to whom he (Mr. Lafontaine) belonged, it is upon that point that he would not hesitate one moment* to refer to himself (Mr. Caron). Mr. Lafontaine adds that Mr. Caron, now admits the principle upon which he (Mr. Lafontaine) had intended to act; that Mr. Caron *argues even on his right to do so independently of himself*, right that Mr. Lafontaine does not deny to Mr. Caron. Mr. Lafontaine is in consequence of opinion that it is useless to multiply the details as to the *manner* in which Mr. Caron might give effect to his *manner* of seeing it, Mr. Lafontaine, leaving M. Caron entirely free, he (Mr. Lafontaine,) notes the fact that he, Mr. Lafontaine, upon Mr. Caron's own acknowledgement, becomes free on his side, if he, Mr. Lafontaine, had not already been so.

APRIL 6TH.—Letter to Mr. Draper, specifying the reasons which Mr. Caron has for publishing the letters. Mr. Caron, hopes that Mr. Draper, will be of his opinion, and that he will not refuse his assent to the publication.

APRIL 6TH.—Letter from Mr. Draper, says that Mr. Lafontaine has given notice in the House, that on the day following he would read the correspondence; says that for that reason, the consent asked for is no longer required, but asks for himself, (Mr. Draper,) Mr. Caron's leave to publish such part of the correspondence as Mr. Lafontaine, could not or would not publish, and also to contradict a report in circulation to the effect, that Mr. Lafontaine's letters had been sent to Mr. Draper, and that he (Mr. Draper,) had answered them.

APRIL 7TH.—Letter to Mr. Draper, in answer to the foregoing. Mr. Caron, informs him that the day previous he wrote to Mr. Lafontaine, to let him know that he (Mr. Caron,) was determined to publish, that from

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a note received from Mr. Lafontaine, (of the 6th March,) it would seem that that gentleman had taken the information as a permission to publish himself such part of the correspondence as was in his possession; that it was probably for that reason that Mr. Lafontaine, had given the notice in question, and Mr. Caron, informed Mr. Draper, that he participated in nowise to that proceeding. In reference to what Mr. Draper had said that he knew not what part of the correspondence was in Mr. Lafontaine's possession, Mr. Caron, gives a list of the papers which he believes to be in Mr. Lafontaine's hands, and grants to Mr. Draper the authority required.

April 7th.—Letter of Mr. Caron to Mr. Lafontaine, acknowledging the receipt of his letter of the day previous, protesting against the interpretation he gives to Mr. Caron's letter of the same date, and tells him that he Mr. Lafontaine has taken *acte* of an imaginary avowal contained in Mr. Caron's letter.

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